HANCOCK PARK DISTRICT DECEMBER PROGRAMS –TO REGISTER YOU MAY GO TO WWW.HANCOCKPARKS.COM OR VISIT US AT 1424 E MAIN CROSS M-F 8:00AM - 4:30PM. FOR QUESTIONS CALL 419-425-7275. CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS ARE DROP OFF PROGRAMS UNLESS ADULTS ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE.

DECEMBER

2 Wednesday
Animal Yoga
Let's pretend to be animals. Our bodies will move into easy yoga poses that look like animals, including frogs and spiders. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a favorite blanket or yoga mat to do the poses on.
Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center
10-11 AM
Ages 3 and under with an adult. Other aged siblings are welcome.
Free; registration is not required.
Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

3 Thursday
Stick Weaving
Create a fabric with interesting patterns by weaving yarn with a forked stick. All supplies will be provided.
Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center
6-7 PM
Ages 6 and up.
Free; registration is not required.
Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

4 Friday
Champion Trees
Champion trees are the largest trees found in a state, a country, or the world. Information and discussion will focus on the measurements and point system used to determine a champion tree, champion trees found in Ohio, and one tree that is up for consideration in Hancock County.
Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center
6-7 PM
Ages 16 and up.
Free; but register by 1 PM on Friday, December 4.
Minimum: 2/Maximum: 25
Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com

5 Saturday
The Baker's Dozen: A Saint Nicholas Tale
Listen to the fireside story, *The Baker's Dozen,* find out what a baker's dozen is, play Gingerbread Man, and decorate a cookie. Christmas cookie cutters will be on display.
Riverbend Recreation Area
The Meadows Activity Area
Brugeman Lodge
1-3 PM
All ages are welcome.
Register with $4 per person by 1 PM on Friday, December 4.
Minimum: 6/Maximum:40
Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

6 Sunday
Holiday Celebration: Open House
There is a real buzz in the McKinnis House this holiday season. The smell of Sarah Fishel's gingersnap cookies will fill the air as they bake in the wood cookstove and Robert McKinnis will carve a Christmas gift, while other family members play the dulcimer and sing songs of the season.
Litzenberg Memorial Woods

McKinnis House
3-6 PM
All ages are welcome.
Free; registration is not required.
Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

7 Monday
Discovery Stories: Animal Bones
Learn about the importance of animal bones. Look at skulls and skeletons, including some from extinct animals, compare different animal skeletons, complete a bone scavenger hunt, and create a fish skeleton craft.
Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center
10-11 AM
Ages 4-6 with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.
Free; registration is not required.
Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

8 Tuesday
History of Soft Drinks
Whether you call it soda or pop, soft drinks are a special treat. Discover the history of soft drinks from their medicinal start to modern production. A variety of soft drinks will be available.
Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center
6-7:30 PM
All ages are welcome.
Free; but register by 1 PM on Tuesday, December 8.
Minimum: 3/Maximum: 20
Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com

11 Friday
Little Hands Nature Club: Pinecones
Look at several types of pinecones that can be found in the park and make a pinecone ornament to take home. Hike the trails in search of pinecones and the animals that eat them, including red squirrels and Carolina chickadees.
Riverbend Recreation Area
Big Oaks Activity Area
Mariann Dana Younger Memorial Pavilion
1-2 PM
Ages 3-6 with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.
Free; registration is not required.
Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

12 Saturday
Winter Bird Hike
Even though many birds have left Ohio for the winter, there are still interesting species that can be found in the park. We will search for year-round resident birds, such as the northern cardinal and the American goldfinch, and for birds that are only in Ohio during the winter, such as the dark-eyed junco and the northern shrike. Binoculars will be provided or bring your own. Dress appropriately for the weather, including layered clothing, hats, and gloves.
Aeraland Recreation Area
Shelter
9-11 AM
All ages are welcome.
Free; registration is not required.
Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

13 Sunday
Snowy Mason Jar Luminaries
Create decorations for winter décor. Make a mason jar luminary with decoupage, glitter, and decorations. All supplies will be provided.

Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center
1-2 PM
Ages 10 and up.
Register with $5 per person by 1 PM on Friday, December 11.
Minimum: 3/Maximum: 12
Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com

14 Monday
Wee Ones: The Christmas Pickle
The story, *The Christmas Pickle,* will be read followed by a pickle scavenger hunt. Create an ornament to hide on your Christmas tree.
Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center
10-11 AM
Ages 3 and under with an adult; other aged siblings are welcome to attend.
Free; registration is not required.
Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

15 Tuesday
What Happens to Aquatic Life During the Winter?
As seasons change and temperatures drop, bodies of water begin to freeze and plants and animals seem to disappear. Learn how aquatic life like fish, frogs, and turtles cope with drastic changes to their environment.
Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center
6-7 PM
All ages are welcome.
Free; registration is not required.
Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

17 Thursday
Planetarium: Geminids & Ursids Meteor Showers
Two meteor showers, the Geminids and the Ursids, take place in December. At the time of this planetarium program, only a few days remain of the Geminids shower with meteors falling from an asteroid rather than a comet. The Geminids shower ends on December 20. On December 21, the Ursids shower begins. While inside the planetarium, learn about these meteor showers and why they occur in December. Participants are required to sit on the floor. Ask about accommodations.
Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center
6:30-7:30 PM
All ages are welcome.
Free; but register by 1 PM on Thursday, December 17.
Maximum: 25
Michelle Rumschlag
mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

19 Saturday
North Pole Hang Out
The Richard S. “Doc” Phillips Discovery Center will be decorated for the holiday season. A Christmas story, *Merry Merry Holly Holly* will be read at 2 PM. Afterward, make an acorn and holly ornament, play snowball toss and the snowflake game, and relax by the fire.
Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center
1-4 PM
All ages are welcome.
Free; registration is not required.
Chris Allen
callen@hancockparks.com

20 Sunday
History of Cookie Cutters
Cookie cutters date back to ancient times; wooden cookie cutters were likely the first type made. A large selection of cookie cutters will be on display. Use cookie cutters to create an ornament.
Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center
1-4 PM
All ages are welcome.
Free; registration is not required.
Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

21 Monday
First Day of Winter Night Hike
The winter solstice gives us the most darkness of any day during the year, almost 15 hours. Will nocturnal animals who have not gone to sleep for the winter like racoons and opossums be enjoying the night? Bundle up as we hike the trails to find out.
Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center Porch
6-7:15 PM
All ages are welcome.
Free; registration is not required.
Michelle Rumschlag mrumschlag@hancockparks.com

23 Wednesday
Richard S. “Doc” Phillips Discovery Center Open House
The Discovery Center will be open for visitation. Visitors can choose to participate in unstructured and/or structured activities. Activities and attractions include birdwatching via the Windows on Wildlife, mounted animals and live animals on display, nature videos, field guides and nature books for reading, touch table and puppets, and seasonal displays and exhibits. A Program Department staff member will be available to answer questions. At 1 PM, join Hancock Park District Program Specialist Mac Teeple for Sugar Painting. Make a winter painting of a snowman or snowflake using powdered sugar as paint. All supplies will be provided.
Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center
9 AM-4 PM
All ages are welcome.
Free; registration is not required.
Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com

27 Sunday
Step Into the New Year
Get motivated for the new year with a walk through the park. Hike the trails and think about New Year’s resolutions. Dress appropriately for the weather, including layered clothing, hats, and gloves.
Litzenberg Memorial Woods
Gatehouse
1-2 PM
All ages are welcome.
Free; registration is not required.
Maclain Teeple mteeple@hancockparks.com

28 Monday
How to Display Rocks
Rocks are fun to collect, but how can you display them? Several types of rock displays will be available to look at and then make your own egg carton rock display.
Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center
1-4 PM
All ages are welcome.
Free; registration is not required.
Chris Allen callen@hancockparks.com

29 Tuesday
Nature Board Games
Play a variety of board games that are both fun and educational, such as Mighty Mussels Journey Through the Wetlands, Rock Collectors, Moon Mission, and Tracking Twister. Other activities include nature jigsaw puzzles, a scavenger hunt, and coloring pages.
Oakwoods Nature Preserve
Discovery Center
9 AM-12 PM
All ages are welcome.
Free; registration is not required.
Tim Kleman tkleman@hancockparks.com